

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) In a print system, a method for adaptively controlling print options, the method comprising:

accepting an imaging job at an imaging device;

following the receipt of the imaging job, the imaging device determining the imaging job characteristics;

the imaging device determining an imaging system's capabilities;

the imaging device matching imaging system capabilities to job characteristics; and,

performing the imaging job on an imaging device.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein determining the imaging job characteristics includes determining job characteristics selected from [[the]] a group including optimal print media, ink chemistry, and image processing.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining an imaging system's capabilities includes determining available print media, available inks, available image processes, and imaging device firmware.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein determining available print media includes an action selected from [[the]] a group including enacting a user interface dialog with a user, reading print media identification of paper loaded in an imaging device, and accessing a memory of stored media data.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein enacting a user interface dialog includes accessing the dialog from a node selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including an imaging device front panel, a web page associated with an imaging device, and a client connected to an imaging device.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 wherein determining available print media includes determining media characteristics selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including media type, media weight, media brightness, tray number, and media name.

7. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein determining available image processes includes determining an imaging device's resolution capabilities.

8. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:
storing the available print media information; and,
determining the available print media for subsequent imaging jobs in response to accessing the stored print media information.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein determining the imaging job characteristics includes determining the imaging job characteristics in response to an action selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including examining a print driver print stream to determine the file type, enacting a user interface dialog with the user,

receiving pre-determined imaging job characteristics from a device driver embedded in a PRN image file, and receiving pre-determined imaging job characteristics from a device driver embedded in a job stream.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein enacting a user interface dialog with a user includes accessing the dialog from a node selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including an imaging device front panel, a web page associated with an imaging device, and a client connected to an imaging device.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein determining an imaging system's capabilities includes determining the capabilities of a plurality of network-connected imaging devices;

wherein matching imaging system capabilities to job characteristics includes matching the capabilities of plurality of network-connected imaging devices to the job characteristics; and,

wherein performing the imaging job on an imaging device includes performing the imaging job of the imaging device whose capabilities best match the job characteristics.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein performing the imaging job on an imaging device includes performing the imaging job on an imaging device selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including a printer, copier, fax, scanner, and multifunctional peripheral (MFP).

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
automatically selecting the imaging device capabilities in response to matching of system capabilities to job characteristics; and,
wherein performing the imaging job on an imaging device includes performing the imaging job in response to the automatic selection of imaging system capabilities.

14. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
establishing minimal match criteria; and,
following the matching of system capabilities to job characteristics, supplying a warning in response to detecting a match below the minimal match criteria.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
presenting a user with a user interface dialog for ~~[[the]]~~ a selection of alternate imaging system capabilities in response to the warning.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
presenting a user with a user interface dialog for ~~[[the]]~~ a selection of a means for determining the imaging system capabilities; and,

wherein determining an imaging system's capabilities includes determining capabilities in response to the selection means dialog.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

in response to matching of imaging system capabilities to job characteristics, presenting the match findings on a user interface to a user;

supplying a user interface dialog for ~~[[the]]~~ a manual selection of imaging system capabilities; and,

wherein performing the imaging job on an imaging device includes performing the imaging job in response to the manual selection of imaging system capabilities.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein accepting an imaging job includes accepting an imaging job selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including an electronic file and a hardcopy.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein performing the imaging job on an imaging device includes performing a job selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including printing and scanning.

20. (currently amended) An imaging device system for adaptively controlling print options, the system comprising:

a controller embedded with an imaging device having an interface to accept an imaging job, following the receipt of the imaging job, the controller determining imaging job characteristics and supplying selected capabilities at an interface in response to matching determined job characteristics to system capabilities; and

an imaging device output unit having an interface to accept the imaging job and selected capabilities, and to supply a job output responsive to the selected capabilities.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 20 where the controller determines job characteristics selected from [[the]] a group including optimal print media, ink chemistry, and image processing.

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 20 wherein the controller determines capabilities selected from [[the]] a group including available print media, available inks, available image processes, and imaging device hardware.

23. (original) The system of claim 22 further comprising:

a user interface (UI) connected to the controller; and,
wherein the controller determines available print media in response to enacting a user interface dialog with a user.

24. (original) The system of claim 22 further comprising:

a reader having an interface for accepting print media and for supplying decoded print media identification to the controller; and, wherein the controller determines available print media in response to accepting the decoded print media identification from the reader.

25. (original) The system of claim 22 further comprising:

a memory, including the stored identification of available print media, having an interface connected to the controller; and, wherein the controller determines available print media in response accessing the memory.

26. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein the user interface resides at a front panel of the imaging device.

27. (original) The system of claim 23 further comprising:

a client, with a print driver, having an interface for sending imaging jobs to the print driver; and, wherein the UI resides with the client.

28. (original) The system of claim 23 further comprising:

a web page having an interface connected to controller, for sending available print media information in response to a UI dialog; and,

wherein the UI has a connection to the web page.

29. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the controller determines media characteristics selected from ~~[[the]]~~ a group including media type, media weight, media brightness, tray number, and media name.

30. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 wherein the controller determines ~~[[the]]~~ an imaging device resolution capabilities.

31. (currently amended) The system of claim 27 wherein the controller determines ~~[[the]]~~ a file type in response to examining the print driver print stream from the client.

32. (original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:
a user interface connected to controller; and,
wherein the controller enacts a user interface dialog with the user to determine job characteristics.

33. (original) The system of claim 32 wherein the user interface resides at a front panel of the imaging device.

34. (original) The system of claim 32 further comprising:

a client, with a print driver, having an interface for sending imaging jobs to the controller; and,

wherein the UI resides with the client.

35. (original) The system of claim 32 further comprising:

a web page having an interface connected to controller for sending job characteristics information in response to a UI dialog; and,
wherein the UI has a connection to the web page.

36. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 further comprising:

a plurality of network-connected imaging devices interfaced to the controller; and,

wherein the controller determines [[the]] capabilities of the plurality of network-connected imaging devices, matches the capabilities of the plurality of network-connected imaging devices to the job characteristics, and sends the imaging job to the imaging device whose capabilities best match the job characteristics.

37. (currently amended) The system of claim 20 wherein the imaging device is an imaging device selected from [[the]] a group including a printer, copier, fax, scanner, or multifunctional peripheral (MFP).

38. (original) The system of claim 20 wherein the controller automatically selects the imaging device capabilities in response to the matching of system capabilities to job characteristics.

39. (original) The system of claim 38 further comprising:

a user interface (UI) connected to the controller; and,
wherein the controller establishes minimal match criteria and supplies a warning, via the UI, in response to detecting a match below the minimal match criteria.

40. (original) The system of claim 39 wherein the controller presents a user with an interface dialog for the selection of alternate imaging system capabilities, via the UI, in response to the warning.

41. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 further comprising:

a user interface (UI) having an interface to the controller;
and,

wherein the controller presents a user interface dialog for [[the]] a selection of a means for determining the imaging system capabilities, via the UI.

42. (currently amended) The system of claim 20 further comprising:

a user interface (UI) having an interface to the controller;
and,
wherein the controller presents the findings of matching the system capabilities to job characteristics, via the UI, and supplies a user interface dialog for [[the]] a manual selection of imaging system capabilities.